

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Patent Of: Naoto Matsumoto

Examiner: Satish Rampuria

U.S. Pat. App. No.: 09/736,168

Group Art Unit: 2191

Filed: December 15, 2000

Confirmation No.: 8093

For: System For Rewriting Control Program  
In Vending Machine

**REPLY TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully point out that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance are understood to be predicated upon consideration of each of the claims as a whole, and not upon any specific element or elements of the claims. Applicants courteously point out that this understanding is in accordance with decisions of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. *In re Dillon*, 919 F.2d 688, 16 USPQ2d 1897, at 1902 (Fed. Cir. 1990)(*in banc*), *Symbol Technologies, Inc. v. Opticon, Inc.*, 935 F.2d 1569, 19 USPQ2d 1241 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

If the Examiner believes that Applicants' understanding is incorrect and the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance are not predicated upon consideration of each claim as a whole, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reply to the undersigned in writing concerning this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_ /Thomas L. Evans/  
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